

Message Text

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GENEVA FOR HA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SHUM, HA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REPORTS ON
HAITI

REF: A) PORT AU PRINCE 3584; B) STATE 45319

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT A DELEGATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS VISITED HAITI EARLIER THIS YEAR TO INVESTIGATE PRISON CONDITIONS--A VISIT WHICH, ACCORDING TO HAITIAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT, PROMPTED PRESIDENT DUVALIER TO INSPECT PRISON CONDITIONS HIMSELF AND TO DECIDE ON RELEASE OF 261 DETAINEES LAST SEPTEMBER. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WILL SEND TWO DELEGATES ON FOLLOW-UP VISIT IN JANUARY TO INSPECT PRISON CONDITIONS REPORTEDLY IMPROVED SINCE IRC VISIT IN
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SEPTEMBER (REF A).

2. ONE OF THE PROVISIONS OF OUR NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT OR STATEMENT TO CONGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ALL COUNTRIES PROPOSED AS RECIPIENTS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

LEGISLATION (SEC. 502B OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AS AMENDED) STATES THAT IN PREPARING SUCH REPORTS DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE RELEVANT

FINDINGS OF APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS. ICRC IS THE ONLY SUCH ORGANIZATION SPECIFICALLY CITED IN THE LEGISLATION.

3. FOR THE PREPARATION OF OUR REQUIRED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON HAITI, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE ANY RELEVANT FINDINGS OF THE ICRC, AS CALLED FOR IN SECTION 502B, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH ICRC SOONEST AND REQUEST: A) CONFIRMATION OF REPORTED ICRC VISIT(S) TO INSPECT HAITIAN PRISONS AND DATE(S); AND B) ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION ICRC CAN SUPPLY ON VISITS AND PRISON CONDITIONS IN HAITI. PLEASE CABLE RESULTS OF APPROACH.
ROBINSON

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